

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 20th May 2012

Licence Examination

The next Amateur Station Licence Examination will be held on Thursday 28th June at 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices in Dublin. The examination may be held on that day at other centres where warranted by the number of candidates. Full details, including entry procedure, examination fee and how to pay the fee online are available by clicking on the Licence Exam button on the IRTS homepage at www.irts.ie Places for the examination are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please note that it is necessary to download the application form from the web page and forward the completed form and the appropriate fee in order to secure a place for the examination. If you pay the fee on line you must still complete and forward the application form. Please note over half the available places have already been allocated.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Geoparks communications weekend this year takes place on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May. South Eastern Amateur Radio Group will again operate from Tankardstown on the Copper Coast Geopark in Co. Waterford. The callsign is EI2GEO (pending approval). Activity will mainly be on HF. Anyone wishing to get involved should contact the club on info/ at/searg.com or phone Mark Wall on 087 630 2026 . For more information about the Geopark, visit www.coppercoastgeopark.com

North Cork Radio Group

North Cork Radio Group are pleased to announce another 1st time CASHOTA activity. This time we will be activating Barryscourt Castle, East Cork. Barryscourt Castle is the 16th century seat of the Barry family. The present castle, with its largely intact bawn wall and corner towers, is a fine example of an Irish tower house.

We are looking forward to operating from this site on Sunday, 20th May 2012 from 11am to 5pm approximately. As the castle is closed to the public until 24th May, this is a closed event but we look forward to working you on the day.

CASHOTA Activity Weekend

19th & 20th also 26th & 27th May 2012

This annual event is held over 2 weekends to allow individuals to activate or chase castles and stately homes, as well as other historical locations. It is open to any individual, group or club who wish to participate, with both activators and chasers being able to claim their award certificate. Irish castles will count towards the main UK CASHOTA award. The CASHOTA IRELAND AWARD is for working Irish castles in both EI and GI. Anyone intending to work a castle in EI should contact Steve EI5DD to obtain a designated number for the Castle. See requirements and details listed on other pages of this site.

DX News

A multi-national group will operate from the Kingdom of Bhutan from 24 May until 6 June. The callsign will be A5A. They will be active on all bands 80-10m and will take part in the WPX CW Contest during the weekend of 26/27 May.

Freddy, who holds the calls F5IRO and J28RO, is now working in Uganda for several weeks. He has been issued with the local call of 5X5RO and has already been heard on several bands. QSL info is via F8DFP.

Craig MM0SSG is now QRV from Luanda in Angola until around the end of October. Workwise he is employed on an offshore oil platform but he is active as D2SG when back on land. His QSL manager is GM4FDM.

The well known DX traveller Vlad UA4WHX, who was active earlier this month as JY8VB from Jordan, is now in Palestine. He appeared recently as E40VB but the length of his stay there is unknown.

The DXpedition on Socotra Island (IOTA AF-028) in Yemen went QRT on Tuesday last, with 162,000 QSOs in the log. With Yemen high on the list of most-wanted DXCC entities and the added attraction of a very rare IOTA reference, the pile-ups were huge. There are just over 100 EI call signs in the log: in the lead is John EI7BA with 19 band slots, followed by Thos EI2JD with 16 band slots.

Items for inclusion in next week's Radio News can be submitted via e-mail to "newsteam /at/ irts / dot / ie" for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Urgent news items for the radio news maybe telephoned to the radio news editor, Aidan, EI7JC on 085 7100511.

Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Thursday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.

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